

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01

PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 PRS-01 SAJ-01 INR-10

DRC-01 /104 W

----- 028302

Z 200353Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 939

S E C R E T SAIGON 0862

DEPT PLEASE PASS AS NECESSARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, VS, CH, PF

SUBJECT: PRC-GVN CLASH IN PARACELS

1. FROM THE FIRST REPORT OF PRC PRESENCE IN PARACELS WE HAVE LOST NO OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS ON GVN OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS (1) NECESSITY TO PLAY IT COOL (2) AVOID ANY ACTION THAT WOULD LEAD TO ESCALATION (3) TRY TO MOVE CONFLICT IMMEDIATELY TO DIPLOMATIC ARENA SUCH AS UNSC AND (4) THAT UNDER NO FORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES COULD WE FORESEE THE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. MILITARY FORCE INVOLVEMENT IN ANY WAY. WE INDICATED THAT NEGATIVE RESPONSES BE MADE TO JGS INITIAL INQUIRY FOR U.S. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE AND, RELUCTANTLY, TO LATER INQUIRY WHETHER WE MIGHT ASSIST IN LOOKING FOR SURVIVORS. AMBASSADOR REITERATED FOREGOING IN LONG CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER LATE SATURDAY.

2. UPON INITIAL ADVICE FROM AMCONGEN DANANG OF PRESENCE OF DAO CIVILIAN LIAISON STAFF ON ONE OF GVN SHIPS WE INSTRUCTED THAT KNOWLEDGE OF FACT OF HIS PRESENCE BE HELD TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. HE WAS TRANSFERRED ASHORE ON PATTLE ISLAND AND HOPEFULLY CAN BE WITHDRAWN WITHOUT PUBLIC NOTICE. HIS PRESENCE WAS CERTAINLY NOT FORTUITOUS, BUT ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION FROM GVN FOR OBSER-

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VATION ON WHAT WAS THOUGHT TO BE ROUTINE PATROL IS CONVINCING

EVIDENCE THAT NEITHER RVN OR USG ANTICIPATED POSSIBILITY OF PRC ACTION.

3. BELIEVE PRESS GUIDANCE STRIKE RIGHT NOTE AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO STRESS WITH GVN POINT IN FIRST SENTENCE WITH WHICH WE WHOLLY AGREE.
MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, ISLAND CLAIMS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
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Draft Date: 20 JAN 1974
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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